

Message Text

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ACTION SY-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 ST-01 /022 W

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P 302050Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 2103

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 0635

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: ARMORED VEHICLE PROGRAM

REF: 1. STATE 006148 2. STATE 018603 3. STATE 010380

1A. FULLY ARMORED 1971 CHEVROLET IMPALA, VEHICLE INVENTORY NO.
1S9002, ARIVED 12/14/71

1B. 14,238 MILES

1C. GENERAL CONDITION: POOR. TRANSMISSION DOES NOT SHIFT PROPERLY
UNDER LOAD, RADIO INOPERATIVE, ACCELERATION POOR, ENGINE CONDITION
DOUBTFUL

1D. VEHICLE SHOULD BE REPAINTED. INTERIOR SEATS SHOULD BE REA-
COVERED AND CARPETS REPLACED. RADIO NEEDS PARTS WHICH HAVE BEEN
REQUESTED FROM OC. WHINDSHIELD NEEDS RE-WATERPROOFING. TRANS-
MISSION AND ENGINE REQUIRE MINIMUM OF MAJOR ADJUSTMENTS AND POSSIBLY
OVERHAUL. REPLACE SHOCKS, BRAKES, AND REALIGN FRONT END.
(CHAUFFEUR COMPLAINS OF DIFFICULTY SEEING THROUGH WINDSHIELD. PLEASE
ADVISE IF ANY SPECIAL GOGGLES OR GLASSES AVAILABLE TO ALLEVIATE
APPARENT DISTORTION)

1E. ESTIMATE VEHICLE WILL REQUIRE MODERATE TO COMPLETE OVERHAUL
EVERY TWO YEARS BECAUSE OF ITS UNUSUAL NATURE AND DRIVING CONDITIONS
IN LA PAZ. HIGH PERFORMANCE ENGINE BURNS UP SPARK PLUGS ON MONTHLY
BASIS DUE TO LOW SPEED, CONSTANT STOP-START OPERATION. HEAVY USE
OF VEHICLE ALSO CAUSES EXCESSIVE WEAR AND TEAR ON INTERIOR AND
EXTERIOR FINISH.

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2A SEMI-ARMORED 1971 CHEVROLET BISCAYNE, VEHICLE INVENTORY NO.
1S9106, ARRIVED 3/3/72

2B. 8739 MILES

2C. GENERAL CONDITION FAIR STEERING AND SUSPENSION HAVE GIVEN
TROUBLE. TRANSMISSION NEEDS ADJUSTMENT AND ENGINE RE-
QUIRES MAJOR TUNE-UP

2D. NEEDS BODY WORK AND COMPLETE RE-PAINTING, PLUS RECOVERING AND
REPLACEMENT OF CARPETS. MAJOR TUNE-UP. LACKS RADIO COMMUNICATION.
NEW TIRES, SHOCKS, BRAKES AND FRONT END REPLACEMENT

2E. SAME AS 1E, BUT ESTIMATE VEHICLE WILL REQUIRE MAJOR OVERHAUL
EVER THREE YEARS. SINCE THIS VEHICLE IS MUCH LESS EXPENSIVE THAN
A FULLY ARMORED CAR, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS REPLACEMENT ON A 36 MONTH
CYCLE RATHER THAN OVERHAUL. LOCAL SALE SHOULD GENERATE SUFFICIENT
FUNDS TO COVER COST OF REPLACEMENT

3.A SEMI-ARMORED 1972 CHEVROLET BISCAYNE, VEHICLE INVENTORY NO.
1S9102, ARRIVED 2/15/72

3B 20,876 MILES

3.C GENERAL CONDITION: FAIR,SAME AS 2C.

3D. SAME AS 2D, BUT DOES NOT NEED BODYWORK.

3.E. SAME AS 2E

4. IN THE PAST, POST HAS NOT STOCKED REPLACEMENT PARTS RECOMMENDED
BY CA-5700 OF 22 DECEMBER 1971. HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEGUN TO ORDER
THESE ITEMS TO IMPROVE PROMPT MAINTENANCE. EMBASSY HAS BEGUN
COMPLETE REVISION OF ITS VEHICLE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM AND WILL
HAVE A FULL-TIME MECHANIC ON DUTY SHORTLY, THUS CURTAILING DEPENDENCE
ON LOCAL GARAGES AND USAID WORKSHOP. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL SUB-
STANTIALLY IMPROVE QUALITY OF VEHICLE PERFORMANCE AND REDUCE DOWN
TIME TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. PARTS GENERALPY ARE NOT AVAILABLE
LOCALLY WHICH REQUIRES POST TO STOCK ITEMS PURCHASED IN U.S.

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5. REQUEST SY PROCURE NEW OR REBUILT ENGINE AND TRANSMISSION
FOR FULLY-ARMORED CHEVROLET AND FORWARD TO
POST. EMBASSY CAN ARRANGE FOR INSTALLATION OF THESE ITEMS AND
PROPOSES TO REBUILD, LOCALLY, ENGINE AND TRANSMISSION TAKEN FROM
ARMORED CAR TO RETAIN AS EMERGENCY BACK-UP

6 POST BELIEVES ARMORED CAR PROGRAM FOR LA PAZ ABSOLUTELY
ESSENTIAL IN VIEW OF UNSETTLED LOCAL CONDITIONS AND PRESENT "STATE

OF SIEGE" DECLARED BY GOB ON 1/28/74, RSO IN SEPTTEL HAS REQUESTED
RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR INSTALLATION IN ALL OFFICIAL EMBASSY VEHICLES.
STEDMAN

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